

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
TRSE-00 HA-05 /073 W  
-----069027 220459Z /14  
R 212102Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHCDC 236

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, CI  
SUBJ: THE LEGACY OF BERNARDO O'HIGGINS

REF: SANTIAGO 6163

1. CHILEANS COMMEMORATED THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF FOUNDING FATHER BERNARDO O'HIGGINS WITH MYRIAD PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES. A THREE HOUR PARADE THROUGH DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO AUGUST 18, VIEWED BY THE JUNTA AND ASSEMBLED NOTABLES, FEATURED A BRIEF ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET MENTIONING (IN PASSING) THE PRECURSOR'S REFUSAL TO BOW TO EXTERNAL PRESSURES. PINOCHET SPENT THE WEEKEND IN O'HIGGINS' HOMELAND, CHILLAN, WHERE HE HEARD DEPUTY ARMY COMMANDER CARLOS FORESTIER, URGE THE AUDIENCE TO UNITE BEHIND THE PRESIDENT.

2. WHILE THE SPEECHIFIERS DREW HEAVILY UPON O'HIGGINS' MARTIAL PROWESS AND ROLE IN HAMMERING THE NEW REPUBLIC INTO SHAPE IT REMAINED FOR "EL MERCURIO" TO COMPLETE THE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED. THE PAPER'S AUGUST 20 EDITORIAL POINTEDLY OBSERVED THAT O'HIGGINS "FACED WITH THE MERE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT BE THE CAUSE OF DISCORD, DIDN'T HESITATE TO STEP DOWN AND ACCEPT AN OSTRACISM FROM WHICH  
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HE NEVER RECOVERED. BECAUSE, MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY INDIVIDUAL, WAS A REPUBLIC THAT HAD TO SUFFER DISILLUSIONS AND DECEPTIONS, UTOPIAN EXPERIMENTS AND DEEP RIFTS, BEFORE IT COULD MATURE".

3. COMMENT: REFTEL ALLUDED TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOC WOULD LINK THE PATRIOTIC FERVER OF THE O'HIGGINS

CELEBRATIONS WITH THE TENSIONS OVER THE BEAGLE CHANNEL TO BOLSTER THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT. WHILE THERE WAS SOME MENTION OF THE PRECURSOR'S INTEREST IN THE SOUTH AND IN MARITIME RIGHTS, WE SAW NO EVIDENCE OF A CONCERTED EFFORT ALONG THESE LINES. NOR, ON BALANCE, DID WE SEE A CO-ORDINATED ATTEMPT TO USE THE CEREMONIES TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF "PINOCHETISMO". FORESTIER'S SPEECH INDICATES THAT SOME, AT LEAST, ARE NOT ADVERSE TO THE IDEA. AS "MERCURIO" MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, ONE MUST BE CAREFUL IN DRAWING TOO MANY PARALLELS WITH THE LIFE OF DON BERNARDO. GROVER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONALISM, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978SANTIA06273  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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